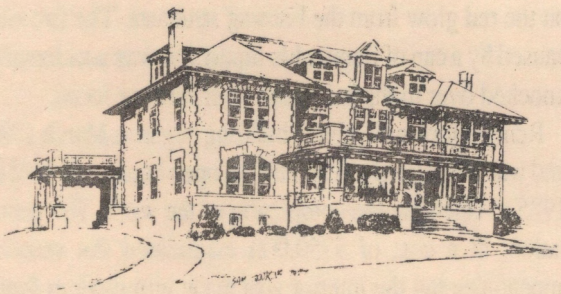
WELLSTON'S HISTORIC CITY HALL

National Register of Historic Places
OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



FORMER HOME OF COAL BARON T.J. MORGAN

Built in 1905 by Columbus contractor E.K. Hibbs. Columbus architect W.T. Mills, designed city hall similar to his design of the former Ohio Governor's Mansion, East Broad Street, Columbus. The interior of the building was very ornate with hand crafted mahogany woodwork, leaded glass entry and cabinet doors; fire places featuring marble and brass from all over the world and a second floor stained glass window made of the precious jewels—ruby, emerald and mother of pearl. Visitors entering the Morgan Mansion were, greeted by a spacious wide mahogany stairway leading to the second floor. The entry way and main floor were lined with tapestry. One section of the tapestry has been preserved and hangs in the second floor Municipal Court Room. Photos of the Mansion and furnishings can been seen throughout the main and second floors. A narrow winding stairway in the servants area of the mansion lead to the second and third floors.

The original roof was an eye-catching red tile. The large front porch banisters on the first and second floors were ornate wrought iron. The flooring on the west carriage entry way is the original tile.

continued

The city acquired the building from the Morgan family in the mid 1950's for $6,000, to use as a City Hall. The interior of the building was gutted by fire Friday, Nov. 2, 1982, while many high school football fans were watching the Wellston/Federal Hocking football game with one eye on the red glow from the burning structure. The fire was caused by a can of flammable liquid that was accidentally knocked over in the basement level furnace room.

Renovation on the gutted building began in March 1984 and was completed a year later, an open house was held in 1985 to celebrate the completion of the work. The restoration, at a cost of $750,000 maintained the exterior appearance but the interior was made into modern functional offices that includes a wing for the Mayor, Service Director and their Secretary, one wing for the City Clerks Office, a conference room and restrooms all on the first floor. The second floor houses the Wellston Chamber of Commerce, the City Treasurer and Auditor plus a multi purpose room used as Council Chambers and a Municipal Court Room, office space for the legal department and restrooms. The basement level is occupied by the Police Department with one room set aside for use by the Wellston Girl Scouts. An elevator plus fire proof stairways connect all floors from the basement to the third floor storage area.

City Employees each Christmas decorate the building and put lighted candles in the windows making the stately Mansion glow and almost seem as though it is home to all area residents.

For more information call the Wellston Chamber of Commerce office at 384-3051.

Please come visit.